

Appl. No. 10/792,351
Docket No. 9567
Amdt. dated September 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed on June 21, 2006
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Original): A tampon and a tampon applicator in combination for expulsion of said tampon into a vaginal cavity of a female user, comprising:

said tampon applicator comprising a tampon holder tube;

said tampon holder tube comprising a hollow interior portion, an interior surface, an exterior surface, a longitudinal axis, an outer perimeter, a first end dimensioned for insertion into said vaginal cavity, and a second end positioned oppositely to said first end;

said tampon holder tube comprising an end expulsion force increaser and a side expulsion member each positioned at said first end of said tampon holder tube, said tampon being housed within said hollow interior portion of said tampon holder tube in a pre-expelled position;

said tampon comprising a fluid permeable bag tampon and absorbent material loosely dispersed within said permeable bag; and

wherein a force to expel said tampon from said tampon holder tube has a greater force to expel said tampon from said end expulsion force increaser than from said side expulsion member.

Claim 15 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said side expulsion member has an initial dimension and a deployed width, said initial dimension changing to said deployed width as said plunger expels said tampon from said tampon holder tube.

Claim 16 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 1, wherein said tampon holder tube comprises a plurality of side expulsion zones.

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Claim 17 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said end expulsion force increaser causes said tampon to expand beyond said outer perimeter of said tampon applicator along at least one of said side expulsion members.

Claim 18 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said tampon when partially expelled from said tampon holder tube is wider than said tampon holder tube.

Claim 19 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said side expulsion zone has a slot, arc or curved configuration.

Claim 20 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 19, wherein said side expulsion zone is a void.

Claim 21 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 19, wherein said side expulsion zone is a weakened area.

Claim 22 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said tampon is compressed to a shorter length by said plunger before being expelled through said end expulsion force increaser.

Claim 23 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said end expulsion force increaser further comprises a projection.

Claim 24 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said tampon in said pre-expelled position is in a first axis and said tampon in said expelled position is in a second axis.

Claim 25 (New): The tampon and tampon applicator of Claim 14, wherein said tampon is reoriented during expulsion to a direction non-parallel to said first axis of said tampon in said tampon's pre-expelled position.